



**VISION:** Eau Claire is a vibrant city with exceptional quality of life and services.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is our mission to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community.

## City Manager

### Sister Cities

Sister Cities International is a citizen diplomacy network that creates partnerships between communities in the United States and those in other countries. More than 2,100 cities, states and counties are partnered in about 145 countries throughout the world.

The U.S. sister city program began in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy initiative. Once a part of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International later became a separate corporation because of the popularity of the programming. The City of Eau Claire is currently “sistered” with Lismore, Australia.

On the “[Visit Lismore](#)” website, Lismore, Australia is described as, “An area renowned for its extraordinary natural beauty, amazing cultural diversity, relaxed lifestyles and quirky charms; a place where old school blends with new age and nature sets the pace.”

Through Sister City programs, people from different cultures learn to understand, appreciate, and celebrate differences while building partnerships. Sister Cities International often serves as a resource for best practices in the field of citizen diplomacy, as it motivates and assists community members, elected officials, and business leaders to conduct long-term, mutually beneficial relationships.

We are working toward establishing an Eau Claire Sister Cities Steering Committee this fall. If you wish to learn more about upcoming City of Eau Claire Sister City program activities, please contact the City Manager’s office at 715-839-4902.

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## City Attorney

### Downtown Development Clears Another Legal Hurdle

After considering written and oral arguments from both parties relating to the City’s Motion to Dismiss, Eau Claire County Judge Paul Lenz dismissed a lawsuit against the City of Eau Claire on Monday, August 17.

The case, filed in March by the local group Voters With Facts, challenged the City’s creation and expansion of downtown tax increment financing districts, TID 10 and the third amendment to TID 8.

Tax increment district (TID) 10 involves the Confluence Project, including the now-under-construction \$23 million Haymarket Landing building and the planned performing arts center, as well as private and public improvements along the river ways and a public plaza at the confluence of the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers.

Popular Website Links: [City Website](#) [City Calendar](#) [City Council Members](#) [Citizen Resource Bank Form](#)  
[Contact Us](#) [E-Notifications](#) [Social Media Links](#)

TID 8 is focused on the North Barstow area and has made possible Phoenix Park and the Farmers Market, after remediating prior environmental concerns among other blight in the area, and paved the way for private projects including RCU, JAMF and several residential and retail commercial buildings. Current construction, approved in the second amendment to the TID, includes a parking ramp to accommodate RCU and JAMF employees now working in our downtown, future-anticipated private development, and users of the park and the Farmers Market. The challenged third amendment to TID 8 brought the closed former Green Tree property and a few others in the vicinity into the TID. The former Green Tree property remains closed but new private development is planned and will hopefully, with the progress of other TID-related projects, start soon and add to the district's successes.

Judge Lenz explained in his ruling to dismiss the lawsuit that the state law the City followed was previously held constitutional, that the City, through its legislative City Council action, was the proper forum to make decisions involved with local redevelopment and tax increment financing, and that Voters with Facts and its individual members only alleged highly speculative damages that could not sustain the case. He further noted that disputes of this nature are political and the courts should try to stay out of them. The group has stated it plans to appeal the Judge's decision. An earlier separate action filed by Voters with Facts alleging Open Meeting Law violations related to downtown development was also dismissed by Circuit Court Judge William Gabler on a motion by the City. The group did not comment on appeal of that action and none has been taken to date. The construction of projects underway is expected to continue with openings of the new North Barstow parking facility and the Haymarket Landing project in 2016.

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## Community Development



### DECI Announces Jump-Start Winners

Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. (DECI) has announced the winners of the ninth annual Jump-Start Downtown Business Competition. The newly-named grand prize, the Jim Mishefske Award, was given to Amy Erickson of Latitude 44 Yoga Studio.

Runner-up was awarded to Elizabeth Griggs with Casual Ore Formal. The Innovative Idea Prize was awarded to Ashley Kosharek for AMK Cleaning Services.

Erickson's studio is a fullclass studio that features anything from hot yoga to prenatal yoga and beginner yoga workshops to advanced inversion workshops. Latitude 44 is located at 313 E. Madison Street. The award includes \$5,000 in start-up capital, along with a \$500 media package from DECI and a two hour Creative Marketing/Brand Development Session with JB Systems, plus one year of free website hosting, and a \$250 credit towards a branding/website project (\$680 value).

Casual Ore Formal is open at 307 S. Farwell Street. Griggs offers custom jewelry designs, jewelry retail, and private and group workshops. She receives \$500 in start-up capital, along with a media package from DECI and three photo 'spins' and one year of hosting from Spin Vision (\$420 value).

AMK Cleaning Services covers cleaning needs in the area. Kosharek receives a \$1,000 scholarship to the UW- Small Business Development Center.

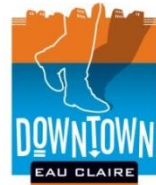
The Jump-Start Awards Luncheon was held August 24 at RCU. There were five applicants in the competition.



DECI PRESENTS

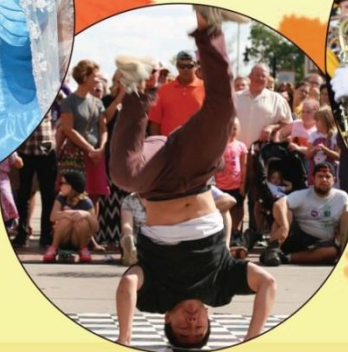
# International Fall Festival

*Downtown Eau Claire*



## Saturday September 19 11 am - 6 pm

*Parade of Nations at 3pm  
with a performance by the  
Blugold Marching Band after!*



S. Barstow Street will be filled with more than 100 food, craft, and art vendors, as well as street performances, a petting zoo, pony rides, and more!

South Barstow Business  
Improvement District

North Barstow/Medical  
Business Improvement District

upland Distributing



# [www.DowntownEauClaire.org](http://www.DowntownEauClaire.org)



### Flood Plain Information Available

The Department of Community Development provides insurance agents, realtors, lenders, developers and property owners the Official Flood Plain Zoning Map and Flood Insurance Map (FIRM). These maps are available to the public for viewing during regular office hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) at the Department of Community Development. The FIRM includes the following information:

- The base flood elevation (if the property is a flood hazard area)
- Whether the property is in a special Flood Hazard area
- The community number
- The panel number and suffix
- The date of the FIRM index
- The FIRM zone

The department will also provide a signed letter containing the above information, which may be necessary for sales transactions and insurance forms. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 715-839-4914 or email us at [planning@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:planning@eauclairewi.gov).

### Bicycle Friendly Community Award

It was recently announced that the City of Eau Claire was designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the bronze level by the League of American Bicyclists. The League of American Bicyclists was founded in 1880 to advocate for better roads for bicycling, with a mission to lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. The City was also designated at the bronze level back in 2011.



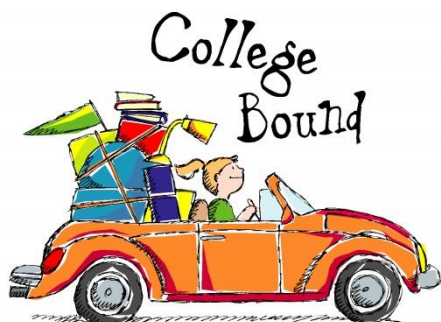
Since 2002, the program has accepted over 870 applications for designation, and there are currently 357 Bicycle Friendly Communities across the country. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission submitted the application for designation back in February.

Since the creation of the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, the City has adopted a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and worked with City officials to make the City's streets more bicycle friendly. Examples of the improvements include the numerous bicycle lanes and sharrows that have been added as streets have been reconstructed. In addition, improvements to the City's recreational trail system continue!

For more information about the City's Bicycle Friendly Community Designation, contact Senior Planner, Patrick Ivory at [pat.ivory@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:pat.ivory@eauclairewi.gov) or Transportation Engineer, Leah Ness at [leah.ness@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:leah.ness@eauclairewi.gov).

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### Fire & Rescue



#### College Student Fire Safety

With the start of college upon us, Eau Claire Fire and Rescue reminds all students, whether residing on-campus or off-campus, of the importance of following safe fire prevention practices. The statistics are sobering. Since 2000, 86 fatal fires have occurred on college campuses, in Greek housing, or in off-campus housing within three miles of the campus. These fires claimed 123 lives. More than 80 percent of campus fire fatalities occur in off-campus housing.

There are several specific causes of fires in on- and off-campus college housing, including cooking, candles, smoking, and overloaded power strips. For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with the excitement of new independence comes the responsibility of being fire safety conscious. It is vital that students are aware of fire risks and preventative actions that could save their lives.

### **Cooking**

- Cook only where it is allowed.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn.
- Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

### **Candles**

- Place candles in sturdy holders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from anything that can burn.
- Use safe flameless candles.

### **Smoking**

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays. Place ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to burn.
- After social gatherings, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.
- Don't smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

### **Electrical safety**

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Never use an extension cord with large appliances, like a refrigerator.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

Other helpful information for both students and parents can be accessed at [www.collegesafe.com](http://www.collegesafe.com).



**Health**

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It's that time of year! While double checking that your children have what they need to go back to school, it is a great idea to make sure that they are up to date on their immunizations.

Your healthcare provider or the Health Department can help you determine what shots are recommended for your child's age. You can also find recommended immunizations at

<http://eauclairewi.gov/departments/health-department/immunization-clinics>.



Uninsured children and those covered by Medicaid or BadgerCare can receive immunizations for no cost at their local health department. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Health Department's immunization line at 715-839-2876.

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## Library



***The Library will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 7.  
Sunday hours will resume on September 13***

### Fall into a Good Story

Fall storytimes are back! Foster a love of reading in your child and enjoy the library with fun activities and books. See the [library newsletter](#) for dates and times. No registration is required. To maximize enjoyment for yourself and others, please follow age recommendations.



### Writers Read: *Open Mic Night*

*Tuesday, September 8 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Bring your original prose or poetry to read aloud for 5 to 10 minutes.

### Healthy Eating on the Run

*Wednesday, September 9 • 6-7:30 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Learn how to provide healthy family meals and snacks, even on the run. Registration recommended.



### DIY Dabble: Personalized Coffee Mug or Wine Glass

*Tuesday, September 15 • 6-7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Crafting isn't just for kids! Adults are invited to try their hand at crafting with this simple project. Use Sharpie markers to decorate a coffee mug or wine glass. All materials are provided free of charge. Registration is required.

### Foraging for Wild Edibles

*Thursday, September 24 • 7 p.m. • Eau Claire Room*

Learn how to find, harvest, and eat food derived from plants growing in the wild. Registration required.

For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info), stop at Information & Reference on your next visit to the library, e-mail the library at [librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us](mailto:librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us), or call 715-839-5004.



**Visit from Pete the Cat**

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## Parks, Recreation & Forestry

### Prime Times Recreation Catalog Available

Prime Times, the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department's activity catalog, is available [online](#), in grocery stores and other high-traffic locations around town. Pick up a copy to see classes and programs offered this fall and winter before the first day of registration, September 9.

### Doggie Swim Fest August 30

Fairfax Pool is open exclusively to the canine crowd from noon-3 p.m., Sunday, August 30, during "[Doggie Swim Fest](#)." Cost is \$10 per dog; spectators are free. Dogs must show proof of current vaccinations. For more information, call 715-839-1680.



### Healthy Trails to You

Hit the trails for a happier, healthier you with a new Parks and Recreation program in partnership with Mayo Clinic Health System. Join a health care provider for a walk on a local trail, while learning about important health topics. Healthy Trails is a free program and open to all ages and fitness levels. The program meets from 9 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month; RSVPs not necessary:

- September 12 – Carson Park (meet by the Blue Ox)
- October 10 – Phoenix Park (meet at Celebration Plaza by the flags)
- November 14 – Owen Park (meet by the playground)

### Food Trucks Roll into City Parks

It's not your typical concession stand fare. The Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department is exploring the feasibility of food trucks operating in local parks. This fall, food trucks will be allowed to do business in Owen Park, Phoenix Park and the Soccer Park while the department evaluates how well-received the concept is in the community.

### And the Winner is...Gold Medal Winners Announced September 15

Eau Claire Parks and Recreation staff will learn next month whether they're the best of the best within their profession. For the second year in a row, the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department has been named a finalist for the National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.

The award, recognizing the top parks and recreation agencies by population classification, will be announced Tuesday, September 15, during the National Recreation and Park Association's annual convention. In Class IV (populations between 30,001 and 75,000), the Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department will be in contention for the award along with the City of Englewood Parks and Recreation Department (Englewood, Colorado), the City of Loveland Parks and Recreation Department (Loveland, Colorado) and the Park District of Oak Park (Oak Park, Illinois).







The Eau Claire Police Department would like to announce some new initiatives to improve our visibility and reinforce our connection with the community. Members of the police department have worked together to create a new logo, new squad car design, and new slogan as a way to support the mission of the Eau Claire Police Department.

***The mission of the Eau Claire Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in Eau Claire by partnering with the community to solve problems, reduce crime and disorder, safeguard individual rights, and improve public safety.***

The Eau Claire Police Department has been successful in working with residents to maintain a safe community. Our crime rate is currently at a 30-year low. Our success is attributed to our Community Oriented Policing philosophy which focuses on neighborhood problems and issues. This is one of the reasons Eau Claire is such a desirable place to live.

The Eau Claire Police Department's new slogan is ***"In Partnership with Our Community."*** This is our basic guiding principle. In order to be successful, the Police Department must have the support and involvement of the community it serves.

In an effort to become more visible to the Eau Claire community, there have been design changes to our patrol squad cars. The patrol squad car is one of the most visible tools our police officers use. We are in the process of transitioning back to the traditional black and white design. It will be easily recognizable and will have our new logo and slogan on it.





The new department logo design combines tradition with a contemporary art form. The logo will become a new recognizable symbol for the Eau Claire Police Department. The logo design is based on current and historical symbols of the City of Eau Claire. They include:



Badge outline – Original police badge outline of the 1800s

Eagle – History and tradition of Eau Claire Old Abe

Waves – Eau Claire “Clear Water”

6 Stars – Core Values of the Eau Claire Police Department:

***Honesty/Integrity***

***Service/Caring***

***Dignity/Respect***

***Professionalism***

***Commitment***

***Lawful Behavior***

The current Eau Claire Police Department badge and uniform patch will remain the same. These have become a permanent symbol of honor and tradition for our police officers and the department.

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## Public Works

### City Committee Explores Alley Policy

Improving the surfaces and drainage of city alleys, as well as improved snow removal in alleys, are among topics that a City Council Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee is exploring. The Committee is discussing the feasibility and financial impact of such improvements if the City adopted an alley improvement policy. The Committee’s recommendations will help set the direction for future public input and City Council decision making.

### Council Presented Preliminary Budget for Tunnel Project

A tunnel to facilitate a multi-purpose trail built under Dewey Street could cost between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million, according to preliminary estimates. The Eau Claire Public Works Department presented a projected budget Monday for City Council members to consider if they wanted to move forward on the project, gathering public input and soliciting bids from contractors. If the community and City Council were in support of the project, construction could begin as early as March 2016. The tunnel would be constructed between the intersection of Dewey and Galloway Streets and the Eau Claire River, near the site of the Huebsch Building.

### High Bridge Connector Trail Progressing on Schedule

Construction of a trail connecting Ninth Street and Roosevelt Elementary School to the newly-renovated High Bridge is progressing smoothly. Once utilities are installed later this month or early next month, the trail can be paved. Weather permitting, engineers say they hope to have paving completed by the end of September.

### Madison Street Bridge Work to Begin in September

The Madison Street Bridge will remain open; however, traffic may be reduced to one lane in each direction during a construction project slated to begin in September. Crews will be replacing expansion joints at the ends of the bridge, as well as attending to some maintenance needs on the bridge. Work is scheduled to wrap up in early November.

### **Year-long Water Street Bridge Project to Begin Next Month**

Reconstruction of the Water Street Bridge is scheduled to begin in early September. The \$7 million project will be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Work is scheduled to be complete by August 2016. During construction, traffic will be detoured using Lake Street, Farwell Street and First Avenue.

### **First Phase of Downtown Road Construction Nears Completion**

Barstow Street construction continues to move along smoothly. Curb and gutter were installed last week, and concrete paving is underway. City engineers hope to have Barstow Street open to traffic by September 19, in time for the Fall Festival.

After Barstow Street is open, Gibson Street will be reconstructed in the block between Barstow and Farwell Streets. The work on Gibson is being coordinated with the construction on the Lismore Hotel and Xcel Energy vault.

### **Hamilton Avenue Residents to Begin Receiving Water Through New Pipes**

After initial delays for water quality testing, Hamilton Avenue residents will now be receiving water services through the newly-installed water main. The recent safe water clearances allow water services to be extended to residents along the reach of the new water line from Nimitz Street to Cummings Avenue.

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## **City Council Meeting Summary – August 24 & 25, 2015**

### **The City Council**

- Conducted public hearings on a rezoning on South Hastings Way and orders for sidewalk repairs at 20 locations throughout the city;
- Discussed the Capital Improvement Plan, a proposed TIF Assistance Policy and a potential fourth level to the North Barstow Street Parking Structure;
- Received presentations of the Sustainability Report and options for a potential trail extension near Dewey Street;
- Granted bartender licenses and authorized special events, including the Eau Claire Skaters Association Fundraiser, the Kids of Steel Triathlon, the Eau Claire Heart Walk, and the Walk a Mile-Chippewa Valley events;
- Approved bids for city-wide sidewalk, curb and gutter repair, for wastewater treatment plant outfall cleanup and sediment disposal, and municipal parking ramp restoration;
- Approved the 2016-20 Capital Improvement Plan;
- Postponed consideration of the proposed TIF Assistance Policy;
- Indicated support of the concept of adding a fourth level to the North Barstow Parking Structure;
- Approved an agreement with The Lismore Hotel for the use of parking stalls in the municipal ramp on Farwell Street;
- Approved a collective bargaining agreement between the City and Local 284; and
- Introduced an ordinance amending the Codes of Ordinances entitled “Hunting” and entitled “Discharging Firearms” regarding bow hunting within the City limits.



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